

Announcement of Total Maximum Daily Load (TMDL) studies to restore water quality in parts of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run that have benthic and bacteria impairments.

PURPOSE OF NOTICE: The Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) and the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation (DCR) announce the second public meeting on the Accotink Creek and Difficult Run TMDL studies.

PUBLIC MEETING:

Wednesday, March 5, 2008 at 7:00 p.m.
Fairfax County Government Center
Conference Rooms 2 and 3
12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax, VA 22035

MEETING DESCRIPTION: This is the second public meeting for this project. The purpose of this meeting is to present the draft TMDL Reports to the public, and discuss the study with community members.

DESCRIPTION OF STUDY: This study addresses two streams located in Fairfax County: Accotink Creek and Difficult Run. Below is a description of the impaired portions of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run that will be addressed in this study:

Stream Name	Locality	Impairments	Area (miles)	Upstream Limit	Downstream Limit
Accotink Creek	Fairfax County City of Fairfax	Fecal Coliform Bacteria	7.35	Confluence of Accotink Creek with Calamo Branch	Start of the tidal waters of Accotink Bay
Difficult Run	Fairfax County City of Fairfax	E. Coli Bacteria Benthic	2.93	Confluence of Difficult Run with Captain Hickory Run	Confluence of Difficult Run with the Potomac River

This study covers portions of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run that were identified as impaired on the Clean Water Act §303(d) list for not supporting the primary contact recreation use due to elevated levels of bacteria, as well as a portion of Difficult Run that was listed on the 303(d) list for not meeting the aquatic life use due to poor health in the benthic biological community. Virginia agencies are working to identify the sources of bacteria contamination in the impaired portions of Accotink Creek and Difficult Run, and to identify the stressors that are affecting the benthic community in Difficult Run. During the study, DEQ will develop a total maximum daily load, or a TMDL, for each impaired stream segment, for each specific impaired use. A TMDL is the total amount of a pollutant a water body can receive and still meet water quality standards. To restore water quality, contamination levels have to be reduced to the TMDL allocated amount.

HOW TO COMMENT: The public comment period on the materials presented at the Public Meeting will extend from March 6, 2008 to April 4, 2008. DEQ accepts written comments by e-mail, fax, or postal mail.

Written comments should include the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, and be received by DEQ during the comment period. Please send all comments to the contact listed below.

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